

## Latin Tradition in Europe (A005349)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026**

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

independent work  
seminar  
lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Verbaal, Wim

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

**crdts**

**offering**

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)

5

A

Micro-credential The Forgotten Literature

5

A

Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)

5

A

Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)

5

A

Elective Set The Classical Tradition

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Latin, literary history, European cultural history, cosmopolitanism

**Position of the course**

This introductory course explores the importance of Latin and Latin literature for European cultural history, from Late Antiquity til modern times. The course continues in the line of the course on Ancient Literature.

**Contents**

Students receive an overview of Latin literature within the European context. An introductory lecture examines the concept of a "dead" language and its survival. The remaining lectures provide an overview of Latin literature and its impact on European cultural history. The overview is done in part through selected and representative text passages in Latin and translation.

Students are introduced to the distinctiveness of Latin literature in different historical periods and from different thematical perspectives. The story of Latin literature is thereby set within the framework of European history. Political, social and cultural developments in Europe are discussed in so far as they were important for the development of Latin literature.

**Initial competences**

To have successfully completed the courses Latin: Language competence I and Literature of the Antiquity or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

**Final competences**

- 1 Have knowledge of Latin literature as a European literature
- 2 Have knowledge of the major periods in Latin literary history and of texts and/or authors representative of them.
- 3 Be able to situate Latin writers and texts within the Latin literary history of Europe
- 4 Be able to situate Latin writers and texts against the historical background of their period
- 5 Be able to recognize and indicate in Latin texts characteristics of the different periods in Latin literary history
- 6 Have an understanding of the specific background knowledge needed to read and understand Latin literature from different periods and know how to acquire this knowledge
- 7 Have knowledge of the functioning of the Latin language and literature within European history

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Response lecture (opening lectures at the different thematic parts): contact hours (on campus), in which the theoretical framework is given to understand the narrative of the Latin tradition in Europe

Work colleges (other lectures): contact hours (on campus), in which after a short explanation of the introductory readings, texts are read and discussed in group.

Independent work: preparatory reading of introductory texts to the Latin text passages to be read in the seminars.

Group work: in dialogue checking the proper reading to that of a colleague, responding the online questions as a group, the preparation of one's own short comparison and assessment of a small corpus of texts

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

- Verbaal, W., "De oudheid en de bunker", *DCG 54* (2021) 15-30
- Pranger, M.B., "The Artifice of Eternity", *The Artificiality of Christianity*, hoofdstuk 1
- Auerbach, E., "Fortunata", *Mimesis*, hoofdstuk 2
- Davies, N., "Peninsula", *Europe: A History*, hoofdstuk 1

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

- 1 Intensive and interactive reading of texts during contact hours.
- 2 exercise sessions
- 3 essay with feedback

#### **Assessment moments**

continuous assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Skills test, Participation, Oral assessment open-book, Assignment

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Non-period related:

Assignment + Participation: portfolio consisting of the online answered questions to the independently read texts (partim participation) + own reading and answering background literature (assignment: mini-essay)

Skills test: testing of acquired skills in approaching the texts read independently after treatment during the lectures

Oral assessment open book: evaluation discussion of the texts read on the basis of work piece and portfolio

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Oral assessment open book: 50%

Assignment: 30%

Portfolio (participation): 20%

Thorough command of Latin as acquired during the course units in the first semester (Latin: Language Proficiency I, Literature of Antiquity) is assumed to be known. Evidence of failure in this area may result in a failure to pass the entire exam.

Having less than 10/20 in any of the above components may result in a failure to pass the entire course unit. If the final score would still be a grade of ten or more out of twenty, it will be reduced to the highest failing grade.

(If the student did not pass the non-period evaluation, a second chance will be offered through a compensatory activity between the first and second examination periods.)

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

1 Possibility of exemption from attendance with substitute literature assignment after consultation with responsible teacher.

2 Possibility of exam at other time within the academic year.

3 Possibility of feedback after making an appointment during office hours.

For more information on flexible studying: <http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstudere>